

REMARKS

This paper is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed August 21, 2007 in reference to the above-captioned application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the accompanying remarks.

Claims 1, 4-9, and 13-15 are pending.

Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 9, 13 and 15 are rejected.

Claims 7 and 14 are objected to.

Claims 7, 13 and 14 are cancelled herein with their subject matter being incorporated into their respective base claims.

Claim 15 is amended herein to change its dependency from claim 13 (now canceled) to claim 9.

The Office Action indicates (item 10) that claims 7 and 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview of November 5, 2007 wherein was discussed incorporating the subject matter of claim 7 into claim 1 without the subject matter of intervening claim 6, and likewise amending claim 9 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 14 without the subject matter of intervening claim 13. Applicant believes the amendments submitted herein to be consistent with the aforementioned telephone interview.

Therefore, Applicant amends claims 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 7. However, the subject matter of intervening claim 6 was not incorporated into claim 1 as the subject matter of claim 6 refers to a resilient filter housing which is not antecedent basis for any features claimed in claim 7. Therefore, Applicant believes claim 7 to have allowable subject matter without including the subject matter of claim 6.

Applicant amends claim 9 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 14 and intervening claim 13.

No new matter is added by way of these amendments. Further, claims 7, 13 and 14 are cancelled as their subject matter is incorporated into their respective base claims.

Dependent claims 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8

Dependent claims 4, 5, 6 and 8, and claim 15 incorporate all of the limitations of their respective base claims 1 and 9, and are believed allowable as being dependent on allowable base claims, as well as for the additional subject matter claimed therein.

Applicants believe that the paper submitted herein provides a complete response to the Office Action, and the present case is in condition for allowance. Therefore, in view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, withdrawal of all rejections, and allowance of all pending claims in due course. If the Examiner believes that a telephone

conference with the Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned, Applicant's attorney, at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael A. Petrocelli', with a stylized, cursive script.

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